

August 18, 1958.

Information on conversations in Brussels.

1. During the 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd of July the ^oturist from USSR, who arrived aboard the ship "Gruzia", visited Brussels. At that time our contact girl-student got in touch with them. She spoke with 7 Ukrainians: 3 from Kharkov, 2 from Kiev, 1 from Donbas and 1 from the Western Ukraine. The last one refused to give detailed information about his place of residence in that part of Ukraine. There was another one from Krivoy Rog, but he presented himself as Russian. All of them used the Russian language. The conversation revealed that all were either engineers or technicians by profession. All carried cameras, probably to take pictures of machines exhibited at the Fair. The conversation was on general topics. They were interested for example why workers in Belgium are so poor "because they work in wooden shoes". Our student explained that it is customary to use for work the so called sabots. They also asked why she does not return to Ukraine? She replied that there are difficulties with obtaining a visa, and that it is no guarantee she could return to Western Europe. The man who asked the question blushed, got confused and said that "times have changed and she could go without reservation". To the question if she could go to any place she wanted, he replied that he must find out from the leader. They also informed that every night they are brought to the boat in ^{Antwerp}Antwerpen where they spent the night and in the morning the busses bring them back.

There was an impression that these ^oturists were under steady guard and did not show any enthusiasm for conversation. They often looked around to find out if nobody listens to their conversation.

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This girl student also placed 35 copies of "Information Bulletin" on the table with Soviet books in the Soviet pavillion. Next day they disappeared. She could not find out who took them.

2. On August 1 arrived from Kiev the Ukrainian National State Chorus and dance ~~and~~ group together 110 men and women. Orest was at the airport to meet them and saw them being led to the busses under close supervision. ~~Brussels~~ Posters announcing the Ukrainian chorus performance are placed all over Brussels. The first performance took place on August the 2nd, and at midnight again under free sky. The concert started with an introduction in Ukrainian and French languages, and with the Belgian, Ukrainian/Soviet/ and Soviet anthems. After the concert a Belgium born Ukrainian girl asked for permission to hand to the chorus a bouquet of flowers. Permission was granted and the girl accompanied by conductor Veryovka and his wife appeared on stage and handed them the flowers with an inscription: "To the bearers and representatives of Ukrainian art a hearty welcome and wishes of great success from Ukrainians in Belgium. Glory to Ukraine." / The flowers and inscription was suggested by Orest./

After the concert some Ukrainian women who live in Brussels visited the artists in the dressing room. One of them asked them why they did not sing the Ukrainian national anthem "She ne vmerla Ukraina" to which conductor Veryovka replied: "now we have another anthem, but my wife could still sing "Sche ne vmerla Ukraina", and another artist added: "in the chorus there are many who could sing it".

During the concert under free sky Ukrainians from Brussels asked the chorus members for autographs. Some gave autographs with a remark: "Do not forget Ukraine".

Orest found out that the chorus stayed at a motel near the Fair. He sent there Andriy, who came from Gr. Britain to help out, and Andriy took a room there on August 6, .

At 2.40 Andriy entered the diner in the motel and met there one of the chorus members who wanted to change 1000 francs. Andriy approached him talking in Ukrainian . The artist inquired who Andriy ~~was~~ and where from. Andriy replied that he came from England and is going to stay here over night. Later Andriy met more ~~of the~~ artists in another room and greeted them with "Good day compatriots! About 10 voices answered and they started to question him. Andriy said he is a worker from England, is on vacation and came to visit the Fair. Two artists departed from the group and started a closer conversation with Andriy about Ukrainian emigration in Gr. Britain. They were interested if it is difficult for a Ukrainian to find a job, if Ukrainians are always treated like foreigners, what difficulties the families have with finding apartments et cet. Then they asked if there are Ukrainian committees in each country where Ukrainians live and what is the cooperation among these committees. One of them asked Andriy not to take their questions too hard, but they have to know , because after their return their friends will question them about the life abroad and about the Ukrainian emigration. To Andriy's question whether they met already any Ukrainians abroad they replied yes, they met , particularly in Engalnd and they asked them to extend "a bow to Ukraine". Andriy asked to do the same for him. Then Andriy inform them extensively about the Ukrainian emigre life in England and other European countries. The Ukrainian committees cooperate with each other. Ukrainians abroad have no difficulties in establishing themselves and finding jobs. For children Ukrainian evening schools and summer camps are being organized and the workers themselves pay the expanses. One of the Ukrainians remarked to this: "My friend, care for your children, teach them

Ukrainian
about Ukraine". Having learned that there are choires abroad, they expressed their satisfaction and promised to bring sheet music.

To Andriy's question about the changes after Stalin's death they said:
"It was good before and it is not bad now". But when Andriy remarked that Ukrainia
abroad are pretty well informed because ca 80% of them are letter exchange
with their relatives in Ukraine, one of them said to the other: "why should
we discuss that when already know the situation".

Andriy briefed them on the Ukrainian life in USA and Canada, on the second generation of Ukrainians in these countries, who already finished college education, on UCCA. He also told them about UHVR. They asked if UHVR has the same aims as other committees, and Andriy explained that its aims are purely political. To their question if UHVR is active only in USA Andriy replied that everywhere where activity is necessary. He also informed them about UNRada.

The conversation turned to the Soviet pavillion, and how Andriy liked it. At that time one of the men left the group with an excuse that he must get a shave. A. remarked that he was disappointed with the Soviet pavillion, because radio Kiev announced a separate Ukrainian section and in fact this is not the case. To that the Ukrainian smiled and said: "anyway they show Ukraine too". Parting he gave Andriy a photograph of Kiev's Khreshchatyk /main street/ on which he wrote: "To Andriy from Ivan, artist of the Ukrainian national chorus, for remembrance. 6 August, 1958."

After a while A. stepped outside and in front of the motel met 3 artists. He greeted them and recognized in one of them a Russian, because he said "Zdravstvuy". They already knew about A. but asked again where he was from. Andriy suggested that they go to his room in the motel. Two agreed and the Russian excused himself, saying that he will join them in 10 minutes.

In the room the two men asked about the life in England, the jobs and earnings. When A. asked about Ukraine they replied: "go back and you will see, take a vacation trip and you'll see." To Andriy's remark that Ukrainians abroad read Ukrainian Soviet papers the men were very much surprised and asked what kind of Soviet papers they read? A. gave the names of few papers. They ~~asked~~ ~~if~~ on their turn gave the names of two papers published in the Kiev oblast and 3 in Odessa and asked if these papers are known. /A. did not remember the names of the papers/. At that time the Russian entered the room and asked A. who brought him to the motel. A. Replied that the travel bureau Cook. They accepted the explanation and the Russian added that that travel bureau is known to him. Again the conversation turned to the Soviet pavillion and again A. expressed his disappointment. To this the Russian replied: "Don't forget we have 15 republics and to give every one of them a separate section at the Fair was impossible unless to "zakhvatit celu Brussel", but don't forget, we came here as a Ukrainian art group". A. replied in somewhat stronger way saying that the Ukrainian artists were sent to the Fair because the practice in England showed that Russian groups have not have as much success as Ukrainians. England and Belgium permitted even to their colonies to have separate pavillions at the Fair and the "independent republic of Ukraine" does not have a section of her own. It is ridiculous, therefore, to make excuses with 15 republics and with lack of space. To that the Russian shouted: " ^{didn't you see the} ~~you could have had the~~ ~~the~~ the pieces manufactured in Kiev, pieces of art et cet.?" A. turning to two Ukrainians said: "This is an exemple of Russian lies", Moscow brought everything under one roof in their pavillion and exhibits Ukrainian goods as Russian, and this one talks about goods manufactured in Kiev. Noth Ukrainians tried to explain that really Ukrainians have a republic of their own, that they have the right to study, they too could finish their education only

thanks to the present regime and they finished with a declaration: "we are Leninists, we are for friendship among the peoples, we are against bombs, all together in friendship" At cet. A. replied to that: " Why only we Ukrainians should be internationalists in the first place, and ~~representatives~~ ^{come out only} with choirs while the Russians represent a ~~leading~~ nation of scientists? Why don't the Russians show that they are internationalists and not imperialists? The Russian shouted that is a lie. Particularly when A. explained that ~~we~~ ^{stay} during the Ukrainian Dance Anseble in England and during its television program whenever the word "Ukraine" came up the interpreters from the Soviet embassy in London interpreted it always "u nas na rodine". One Ukrainian joined the Russian in calling it a lie, and A. replied: " when you too interpret this way the Soviet propaganda, then we who are in the emigration feel it our duty to expose these lies." The other Ukrainian added: " You, Andriy, read too much in Hrushevskiy, and listen to much to emigre propaganda". A. replied that ~~read~~ Hrushevskiy should every Ukrainian. That concluded the conversation. The Russian left first. One of the Ukrainians taking leave remarked : " Andriy, you didn't come here to cause trouble for us, did you?" A. replied that he replied to questions in all sinserety and told the truth.

On August 7 A. again met corus members who asked him how he liked the concert? One of them handed to A. the promised sheet music of Ukrainian songs, and said : "here is the sheet music, you should sing Ukrainian songs as we do it". A. asked him if he does not feel bad the yesterday's conversation to which the man replied: "this was yesterday, today we have forgotten".

On August 8 A. was for breakfast at 8 AM. The members of the chorus who came shortly greeted him "Dobryi ranok". The Russian who talked to A. on August the 6, ate at a separate table with a woman ,probably from the Soviet embassy. A. asked the man who two days ago went to have a shave, if he wouldn't

care for reading material, papers and books, this man replied: "A. , you would put me in a very awkward position". A. tried to have a conversation conductor Veryovka, but he did not succeed.

Expediency did not require for A. to stay longer in the motel. He left, having made arrangements with one of the waiters to hand to ^{some of the} chorus members envelopes with our literature, "Information Bulletin", "SU" , "ULH" , Prokop's book, together 70 copies of IB, 20 of SU and 3 books. These letter were handed to the addressees during breakfast on August the 8. In the evening A. once again went to the motel to which he brought a couple from Engalnd, who were to replace him. He held one Russian from security saying to Veryovka: " this is our Banderovskiy organizer".

On Saturday A. met two chorus members in front of a store in the vicinity of Brussels main railroad station. They were in company of two chorus girls. One of them was the one who gave A. the photograph of Khreshchatyk. The girls entered the store and A. asked the men if he could buy them something to remember. The reply was that they have enough money and as proof Ivan displayed 5.500 B.frnaks saying that he makes 2.500 rubles a month, and A. is a laborer and he needs money for himself. Ivan noticed that A. has papers under his arm and asked : "you have papers, give some." A. handed to Ivan and friend 2 copies of SU, 2 copies of Prokop's book and 50 copies of IB. They both hid the stuff in their pockets. To A.'s question if they were married they replied in negative and asked in return the same question of A. He said was not married and Ivan smiled and said: "Come back home and you will find there a Ukrainian girl". A. then told them that he himself was once in this "damned Comsomol" and indicated that Poland and Hungay though Communist are guarding their national ego. He remarked that we Ukrainians should follow the legacy by Khvylovy. To Ivan's question A. explained that Khvylovyi said:

"Away from Moscow" to which Ivan : " You should understand , Andriy, you should believe me that now it became much better. Don't forget that that Khrushchev and Kirichenko are Ukrainians and both are in the CC~~F~~ A. replied that he himself read Khrushchev's announcement in the ~~the~~ English press stating that he is a Russian, and concerning Kirichenko, he Andriy, would praise him, if ~~the~~ Kirichenko would bring Ukraine to a position ~~which would be better~~ to which Gomulka brought Poland, however, Kirichenko is a careerist. A. remarked farther that in Ukraine they should not scold the emigration. The two men assured him , that they never had a negative feeling about the emigration, they do not blame the emigration, on the contrary they enjoy speaking to him. At the same time they asked to extend greetings to the Ukrainian emigration.

A. gave them an address in England in case they wanted to write to him. Ivan said he comes from Poltava. The conversation was interrupted because the girls came out of the store and asked the men to help them out in the store with the German language.

3. The couple from England who stayed in the motel after A. left had a chance for few conversations particularly with the wife of the conductor. Info about this conversation is not yet available. After A.'s departure some changes occurred in the motel. Hotel fee was raised to 400 francs a day and chorus members have another time for breakfast.
4. Our professor with wife arrived in Brussels on August 11. Orest and professor with wife visited the Soviet pavillion on August 12 in the morning . They took advantage of the absence of personnel, who slept after Voroshilov's banquet , and placed among Soviet books and pamphlets the "IB" and information leaflet about the bookstore. For about half an hour the visitors were taking from tables our publications together with the Soviet publications till the Soviet personnel took notice of it. The Soviet book stands are now

being watched carefully, and those who turn over books are watched.

5. Two friends from England K. and S. arrived from England. S. lives in the motel where the chorus members live. At that time the motel was occupied by members of other groups ^{nationality} from the USSR: The Moscow Symphony orchestra, the Moyseyev ballet, Estonian group /6 members/, Belorussians, , Uzbeks, Kazaks, Armenians and Georgians.

On August 8 S. had a 90 minute conversation with the soloist of the Belorussian opera in Minsk. /The Ukrainian chorus was at the time in Luxemburg/ During the conversation the motto of "better life, plenty of food et cet." prevailed. Asked about Stalin the singer replied that had his good and bad sides. The good one was his strategy during WW II, the bad one that at the end of his life he was isolated from the people. Therefore Khrushchev goes to the people to keep the contact alive. She said that "voice of America" and "Radio Free Europe" are permitted to listen , but people listen hesitantly, because "it is a terrible American propaganda, which always shows the Soviet Union in the false light". /S. introduced himself as a Canadian, ^{born} Ukrainian from Canada/. Later another member of the team joined in the conversation, a Russian from the security, and he blamed the emigration that is causing trouble for them. For instance the Moyseev group in Canada was picketed with inscription "Murderers". " Whom did we kill, we are people like others, and we want cultural relations" he said. In Paris , he informed, somebody allegedly bought out 80% of all the tickets and the concert ~~was~~ took place in an empty hall. He said that the emigr press writes that the chorus members are under surveillance and are not permitted to speak to strangers. They both expressed the opinion that "the Americans are good people, but they are incited to war". On one occasion an American invited the chorus members for dinner, on another one American woman was surprised that they are people like others. During the conversation S. noticed their great hatred to the Germans.

On August 15 S. met Ukrainian chorus members and had a conversation from 12 noon till 10PM . He talked with a Ukrainian from Drohobych, who knew Russian very well. He inquired about Ukrainian life in Canada about art groups there. S. asked if he remembers the German occupation? The man replied, he will never forget it to the Germans, though he was at that time just a child. After dinner the "guards" took off and the conversation continued more freely. S. informed about Ukrainians in Canada. They listened very carefully. Two of them in advanced age asked about Horodovenko and Kytastyi / Horodovenko , known in Ukraine, was a director of a mixed chorus, before the war in Kiev is now Kytastyi , Bandusts Chorus director, lives in Detroit/. They asked if Kytastyi's Bandurists will make a tournee. Then the discussion turned to general political topics.: USSR wants peace, USA wants war and destruction, why? , about the economic structure in the West, about 5 million unemployed in USA. /S. who is a university student gave explanations without any propaganda/. Frequent questions were put by Mishchenko, director of the chorus, who knew well the economic situation in the West, included the schedules of taxation in Canada and USA, Ivan Dzioba and his wife , who was from Volochyska and noticed S's Western Ukrainian accent, and Constantine Malishevskyi.

As if by accident the conversing group was approached by the chorus administrator Gonta who asked S. to help him out as interpreter with the Belgians. When S. agreed and they left the group, Gonta gave S. his card and asked for a separate appointment- a visit by S. Gonta's apartment. Gonta lives separately in town and has an apartment of his own. They agreed and the appointment is to take place on August 18. Gonta said that he has two other friends who expressed a desire to meet with S. at Gonta's.

The chorus returns by boat from Antwerpen to Leningrad on the 18th and Gonta is to live on August 22. The conversations continue.

6. Since August 10 a separate table-stand functions in the Vatican pavillion with a Ukrainian Oshchypko sitting there and giving informations. He is also to give informations about the book store and distribute our press and publications. We contributed financially to the establishemnt of that stand.
7. On August 5 two Ukrainians brother and sister arrived in Brussels from Poland. They came by their own car. Their father did not receive the visa. They stayed in Brussels for 3 days and returned to Poland through Germany/Munich/, and Prague. They took with them 100 "IB". They were afraid to take the Encyclopedia of Ukraine, because of strict controls on private cars.
8. Two informations were given to the Belgian press. Orest prepares material which the Belgian press promised to publish after Voroshilov's departure. A press conference is planned for the future.
9. The arrival of our friend from ~~Poland~~ P. was announced for the second half of of September. He will stay for two weeks. All his papers are on hand , he paid the money required. Another friend ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ from P. who was last year announced his arrival, a month ago.
10. Orest's visa terminates September 23, and ~~he~~ will have, probably, to be extended. His finances are at the end too, and he asks for prompt reply. We have to cover also the expenses of both our friends from P.
11. The man from Ukraine who met professor's wife in B. last June, notified her in a letter of July 3, that he returned home and informed about his visit "all the family", and "all at home" are thankful for gifts and express hearty greetings. He also informs that he goes for a short practice to the East and will be back in August. He also sent 10 copies of a local paper and also a Hutsul art box and embroidered shirt. He promised to sent again the paper and asked if we have other wishes. / Explanation: ~~At~~ the meeting he received 4 volumes of Encyclopedia of U. and 8 books in different languages./

12. According to information received in Belgium from ~~many~~ visitors from Poland, to areas in Poland called Zakarzonna and particularly to the Sianok area, and further to the North, recently / last few months/ arrive "Ukrainians who never lived there before". They pose as returnees from the Western parts of Poland , but are probably from the Ukrainian SSR. The Poles explain the appearance of these "returnees" with the probability of large resources of oil and natural gas and possibly ores in those areas, and because of that with the Soviet preparation to move their border line farther to the West.